

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA AND
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SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

For over a year, the Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the San Gabriel Council of Governments, other County and City leaders from local fire and law enforcement agencies, reviewed efforts to have a private hospital dedicated in the East San Gabriel Valley area as a trauma center. These efforts have focused on Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center reentering the County's trauma system. It was reported by Pomona Hospital that it is not feasible to reenter the County's trauma system due to the lack of physician and nurse specialists necessary for trauma designation, the hospital's capacity and infrastructure, and the high cost of reentering and sustaining a dedicated trauma system. It is commendable that Pomona Hospital conducted the feasibility study to assist political leaders in the East San Gabriel Valley to better understand the hospital's concerns in reentering the trauma system.

However, any one of us could find ourselves in need of trauma care—an automobile accident, head injury, knife or gunshot wound would require specialized medical expertise found at a designated trauma center. If one is injured in Duarte,

MOTION

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

El Monte, West Covina, Irwindale, Claremont or Pomona or in any other city in the East San Gabriel Valley, it is less likely that treatment will be received close to home. Currently, Huntington Memorial Hospital is the only trauma center serving the East San Gabriel Valley community. Although a dedicated trauma center is not feasible at this time, this Board is working on an alternative solution that includes stationing a Medevac helicopter with a dedicated crew 24-hours, seven-days-a-week, in the San Gabriel Valley to strengthen our trauma preparedness network to the region, which includes dedicating LAC+USC Medical Center as the primary trauma center that will receive trauma patients through air transport for those areas not covered by Huntington Memorial Hospital trauma center.

San Gabriel Valley residents are often transported by ambulance ground transport to LAC+USC Medical Center in Boyle Heights, but air transported patients are sent to various trauma centers on a rotating basis. It is imperative that the East San Gabriel Valley has around-the-clock airlift capabilities with a primary trauma hospital dedicated to serve the community.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE Board of Supervisors direct the:

1. Los Angeles County Fire Chief and the Director of the Department of Health Services' Emergency Medical Service Agency to designate a 24-hour, seven-days-a week air ambulance services in the East San Gabriel Valley; and,
2. Direct the Emergency Medical Services Agency to designate LAC+USC Medical Center as the primary trauma center for any portions of the San Gabriel Valley that are not covered by Huntington Memorial Hospital's trauma center.

RL/jp

9-20-05 MOTION ON ESGV TRAUMA